THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) At present, there is no demand for Shatabdi Express for Allahabad. However, it is proposed to introduce 3 pairs of Express trains—*viz.* Guwahati-Jodhpur/Bikaner Express, Ahmedabad-Varanasi Express and Hatia-Lokmanya Tilak Terminus (Mumbai) Express *via* Allahabad during 2002-2003.

(d) Yes, Sir. The Bareilly Shatabdi is poorly patronised.

Cockroaches in Rajdhani and Shatabdi Trains

3465. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:
SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state.

(a) whether complaints of cockroaches in A.C. coaches in Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express, have been reported;

(b) whether Government's attention has also been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Asian Age dated the 25th February, 2002 under the caption ""Rajdhani man pins cockroach to complaint".

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the reasons for negligence in maintaining cleanliness;

(e) the action taken to sterlize the prestigious trains before start; and

(f) the measures proposed to check such menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, sir. Some complaints regarding cockroaches in Rajdhani and Shatabdi have been received.

(b) and (c) The news item appeared in the Asian Age on 25th February, 2002 under the caption ""Rajdhani man pins cockroach to Complaint". Investigations indicated that Shri Rajkumar Sureka, a Rajdhani passenger, made a complaint about cockroaches inside AC coaches and pinned a cockroach to the complaint book.

(d) The logistics of providing cooked food and edibles to large number of passengers including children three times a day involving preparation, storage, serving and disposal of leftovers are difficult and challenging particularly with respect to control of pests and insects which feed on the food items. Railways have taken all possible measures in this regard including engagement of pest control agencies for ensuring pest free coaches. All coaches undergo periodical pest control treatment under close supervision. New methods are constantly

explored and employed keeping in mind any adverse effect, which the pest control treatment may have on the health of human beings. However, immediate counter measures are taken if pests/insects are detected in the passenger areas of coaches. In this particular case, immediate follow up was done on the complaint and pest control agency was penalized followed by termination of contract. The administration was already taking up with the firm for poor performance and this complaint served as the last straw. A complete review of pest control methods has since been carried out and special attention is being given to identified pest concentration locations. Frequency of treatment has been increased to every fortnightly for Howrah Rajdhani to control this menace.

(e) and (f) All coaches are cleaned and disinfected prior to start. Complete Pest Control treatment is done at monthly interval or more frequently depending upon requirement. Although it is not practicable to completely eliminate cockroaches but the following measures are being taken to keep this menace under check:

(1) Monthly/fortnightly pest control treatment and fumigation of coaches by expert agencies.

(2) Re-treatment of coaches in case of complaint.

(3) Trial with slow release pesticidal paints to provide a lasting solution.

(4) Thorough cleaning of coaches at the end of trip to remove food leftoers from coaches which attract pests.

(5) Complete pest control of pantry cars after vacating them to stop breeding of insects on train.

(6) Use of new types of pesticides and periodic changes to tackle resistant strains of insects.

Daily run of Hazrat Nizamuddin-Secunderabad New Rajdhani

3466. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a weekly Rajdhani Express has been introduced from Hazrat Nizamuddin to Secunderabad during the month of February, 2002;

(b) if so, whether there has been a demand to run this train on daily basis; and

(c) what is Government's response in this regard?